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RESIST

Newsletter #215

A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

April, 1989

National Service—A Draft Alternative or a Return to the Draft?

Resist recently received an emergency grant request from the National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors. NISBCO needed money fast to help get out the word about "pep rallies" that the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) was holding this past fall to gain acceptance for their proposal on national service. The plan, recently introduced in Congress as Senate Bill S-3, is for a program of "voluntary" enlistment in a "Citizen Corps" in exchange for vouchers that could be used, after a period of service, to pay for higher education, job training, or a down payment on a home. We've also been hearing from draft resistance activists about their suspicion that national service was merely a cover for a military draft. The campaign for national service, spearheaded by the DLC, is gaining ground, but many progressive activists have little information about either the proposals now in Congress or their implications. In this issue we are reprinting several articles (edited for space) which originally appeared in "Draft Notices," the bi-monthly newsletter of the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft. These articles outline the proposed DLC plan, and highlight some of the reasons progressives should pay critical attention to the issue of national service.

National Service Spector Looms Closer in '89

RICK JAHNKOW

During the next few years, conditions may become ripe for one thing that many anti-militarists have been resisting for the last ten years—a return to some type of draft. Three factors could help set the stage: (1) complacency arising from recent political developments, like better U.S./Soviet relations, the breakdown of the Reagan agenda for Central America and a perceived temporary halt to the arms buildup; (2) a 30% shrinkage in the number of young people in the pool of potential military recruits; and (3) an alliance of powerful political forces forming to promote the concept of national service.

The national service strategy offers proponents of conscription an effective way to form a broader base of support than they've had in the past. It has appeal for the militarists who would like to see every person undergo boot camp-type conditioning; it salves the conscience of liberals who claim to be concerned about issues like unemployment, health care and child care; it offers a way to co-opt those who demand equal rights for women; and it answers the concern of those who wish to have a military force large enough for continued global intervention. As draft ad-

vocate Senator Sam Nunn has pointed out, the attractiveness of national service is that it would provide draftees without the problems associated with having a draft.

Legislative Proposals

About a dozen bills were introduced in the last Congress relating to national service. The plan which seems to have the greatest potential for advancing the idea has been proposed by the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) and was reintroduced this year as Senate Bill S-3. (As Resist went to press, hearings were being held in the Labor Committee). The DLC, formed in 1984 to promote a more conservative agenda within the Democratic Party, and chaired by Senator Sam Nunn, also includes such liberals as Senators Alan Cranston and Daniel Inouye and Representative Jim Bates.

The DLC proposal would eliminate existing federal student aid programs and force young people to enlist in civic job programs or the military in order to receive college assistance, with a greater financial incentive for those volunteering for the military. The time of service would be one or two years for civilian programs and a minimum of two years if the military program is

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chosen. For each year in the military, a person would receive a voucher worth \$12,500; for each year in a civilian program the voucher would be worth \$10,000. Vouchers could then be used for education, job training or a down payment on a house.

The goal of the plan's sponsors is to enlist 800,000 "volunteers" in what is dubbed the Citizen Corps, which the DLC estimates would cost \$5 billion. Participants would be expected to live on subsistence wages, and would fall into three categories:

1. Young civilians who would perform a variety of social services at home or in the Peace Corps;

2. Citizen soldiers who serve in the military or reserves; and

3. Senior citizens who would perform civilian service tasks on either a part-time or full-time basis.

Civilians would receive lower wages than those in the military.

In a 71-page policy paper issued in May, 1988, the DLC claims its plan "is not designed to revive the military draft." However, one of its arguments is that the plan will help strengthen the military "by encouraging more young men and women to volunteer for military duty and the reserves." It will do this by increasing the economic pressure which now compels many low- and middle-income people to enlist, intensifying the poverty draft.

Furthermore, in an earlier summary of its agenda for the '88 elections, the DLC said, "We believe voluntary as well as *compulsory* options should be studied" for national service (emphasis added).

Pandering to Fascistic Values

While the adoption of a grand national service plan that fully utilizes the millions of young men and women who turn 18 each year is not likely immediately, the mere promotion of such a plan poses a serious threat. The campaign to sell this concept is designed to reinforce the belief that the individual has a duty to perform whatever role the state dictates. It encourages and panders to fascistic values; i.e. the people exist to serve the state and not the reverse. Using terms that sound both patriotic and altruistic, the pro-national service campaign could have an alarming long-term affect on public opinion.

Also, the mere attempt to introduce

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We Thought You Might Be Interested...

Vietnam Generation is a new magazine, founded in 1988 to promote and encourage interdisciplinary study of the Vietnam War and the Vietnam War generation. The journal is published by Vietnam Generation, Inc., a non-profit corporation devoted to promoting scholarship on recent history and contemporary issues. All correspondence, including manuscript submissions, should be sent to Kali Tal, Editor, *Vietnam Generation*, American Studies Department, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511. Issue Number 1 included "In Cold Blood: The Vietnam War in Textbooks," by David Berman, and "The American Bombardment of Kampuchea, 1969-1973," by Ben Kiernan. Subscriptions are \$40/year for individuals; \$75 for institutions.

Job Opening Fundraising Coordinator

To work with NECAN, a grassroots network opposing US intervention in Central America and providing solidarity to the Central American people.

Requires fundraising experience. Grassroots organizing experience helpful. Additional training provided. \$14,000-16,000, full health benefits, 4 weeks vacation, other benefits.

Deadline for resumes: May 1. send to: NECAN, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. (617) 491-4205.

We are an affirmative action employer.

Attention Newsletter Readers!

If you happened to miss our February, 1989 issue, then you missed our year-end wrap up of all the groups we funded in 1988. If you'd like a copy, just drop us a line and we'd be happy to send it out to you.

Also, if you would like to see a copy of our 1988 financial report, copies are now available at the Resist office. Simply call or drop us a line and we will send it right out.

Lend Resist a Hand

There are many ways throughout the year that you can support the work of Resist. You can send us a donation, become a pledge, buy a T-shirt for a friend. Tell your friends about Resist, and encourage them to support us. If you would like copies of our brochure to pass out, let us know. Give us the names and addresses of friends we should contact about Resist. (Let us know if we can use your name when we contact them.) Find out if your workplace has a matching grants program. And if you are in the process of writing or amending your Will, you might think about leaving a sum or a percentage to Resist, to help us through our next 22 years. Resist is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. Donations are tax deductible.

And don't forget to let groups in your area know about us, and encourage them to apply for grants. Send us the names and addresses of any groups to whom we should send grant guidelines.

And thanks for your continued support!



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Hotel Workers Put Housing on the Table

ANNETTE DUKE and JEAN KLUVER

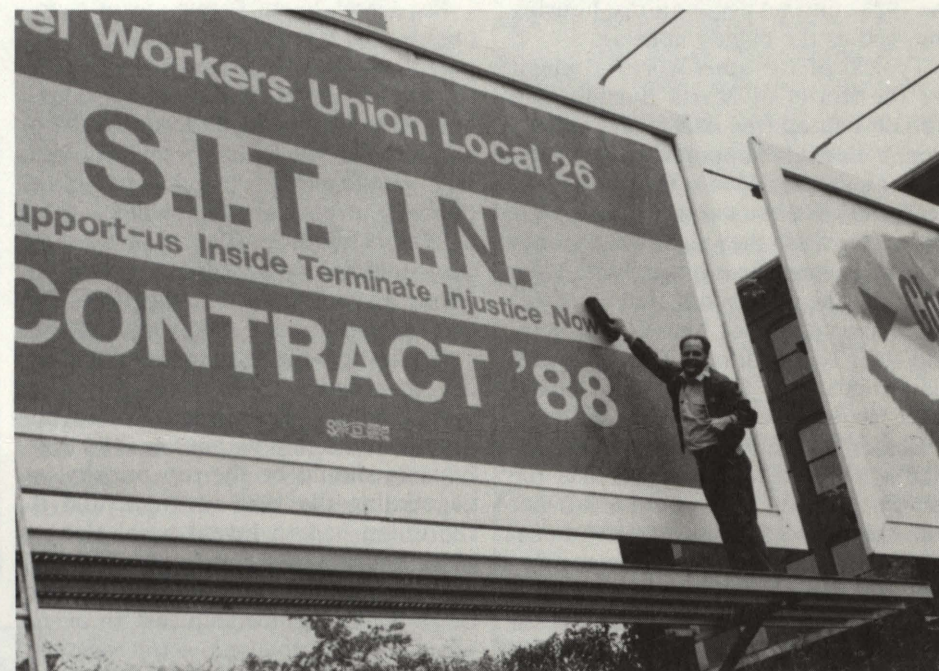
The Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, Local 26, has done what no other union in the country has ever done. Its new contract with Boston hotel owners includes a benefit that could make housing in the city more affordable for its members. Many of Local 26's supporters thought the union was reaching for the stars, but its triumph this past December has paved the way for unions across the country to bring housing to the bargaining table.

The Hotel Workers made the housing benefit a principal demand during contract negotiations, and the 3,500-member union made it clear that it was prepared to strike over the issue. As Local 26 President Domenic Bozzotto noted then, "This can't be a city where workers can't afford to live. If there's a strike in this city over the affordable housing trust fund, maybe someone will wake up and say, 'maybe something should be done.'"

Under Local 26's new contract, the 13 unionized hotels in the Boston area will contribute 5 cents per hour per worker to a housing trust fund. The fund will provide financial assistance to hotel workers, who find it increasingly difficult to afford housing in Boston's high-priced housing market. At the end of three years, employer contributions to the fund will exceed \$1 million.

The union sees its new contract as a first step toward making employers share responsibility for ensuring that their workers have adequate housing. "This is not charity," says Bruce Marks, Local 26's housing specialist. "This legitimizes private sector support for affordable housing."

To activate the housing trust fund, however, Local 26 needs a stamp of approval from the U.S. Congress. The



Billboards like this went up around Boston prior to the contract's expiration ensuring that everyone would be watching. Photo: Local 26.

hotel owners argue that such a fund is prohibited under the Taft-Hartley Act, which regulates the types of trust funds that can be set up through labor-management bargaining.

Because this is a gray area under the law, the union will lobby Congress to amend Taft-Hartley to explicitly permit union-negotiated trust funds for housing. The contract stipulates that this legal issue must be resolved within 18 months or the housing money will revert to the union's health benefits fund. "We've done the hard work," Bozzotto states. "The easy work is for the politicians to do what they're supposed to do."

Expecting strong opposition from the business community, the union has begun to talk with other unions across the country about getting the amendment through Congress. The "final touches"—putting the housing trust fund into law—will mobilize other unions to support the change actively, says Bozzotto. Surprisingly, there is reason to be optimistic about the outcome in Congress. Federal labor law has been changed by Congress recently to allow labor-management trusts to be set up for legal assistance and child care.

Labor and Housing on Collision Course

Over the last 10 years, Boston's labor and housing markets have been on a collision course—and the city's hotel workers are absorbing the shock. The metropolitan area has lost middle-wage manufacturing jobs and gained many financial and service-sector jobs, which tend to pay either very high or very low wages. This new, more unequal income distribution has had a effect on workers' access to the housing market.

High-income earners bid up the price of housing in the city. This puts pressure on the supply of moderately-priced housing units, which are targeted by developers for upgrading and conversion into condominiums. The city's growing ranks of low-wage workers are left with a dwindling stock of affordable housing. Cutbacks in federal spending that have reduced the supply of low-income housing exacerbate the crunch.

Ninety percent of Local 26's members are renters. They belong to Boston's large and growing low-wage work force, which includes retail trade workers, health service workers, and

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Hotel Workers

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clerical workers. These workers find that there are many jobs in Boston, but no affordable housing. Thus it was not surprising that when Local 26 queried its membership about issues to raise in the 1988 contract negotiations, housing emerged as the biggest concern.

Typical of the hotel workers' plight are the stories of Maria Buendia and Ronald Fenton (the names are pseudonyms). Buendia supports five children on her salary of \$274 a week. She and her family live in a one-bedroom apartment, for which they pay \$400 a month in rent. Fenton earns more than \$375 a week, but he still cannot find an affordable apartment for himself, his wife, and their two children. They live with his parents in a four-bedroom apartment, crowded with 10 other siblings.

Boston's hotel workers have negotiated a 20% increase in wages over the last three years, but the raise has not come close to keeping pace with housing costs. Hotel workers' wages average less than \$15,000; their median household income is \$22,000. Yet an annual household income of \$59,000 is needed to purchase a median-priced home on the private market in Boston. Even the average home purchased through the state's subsidy program for first-time homebuyers requires an income of \$33,000. An income of \$32,000 is needed just to rent a typical two-bedroom apartment in Boston.

Taking Housing Out of Competition

Low-wage workers in Boston and elsewhere have traditionally raised their standard of living by "taking wages out of competition"—unionizing and collectively bargaining with their employers. Given current labor and housing market trends, it may also be in many workers' interests to try to "take housing out of competition." Including housing in a bundle of benefits that can be collectively bargained may improve workers' standard of living more dramatically than negotiating on wages alone—especially for low-wage workers.

Local 26 made a start in this direction in its 1985 contract, when it won a legal services plan—the first of its kind in the country—for its members. Subsequently, the union mobilized its membership to use lawyers and the courts to take on landlords who refused to repair unsafe housing or who illegally raised rents. Union members brought class action suits and joined

with their neighbors to challenge landlords. When they saw that they could affect housing conditions, the hotel workers were ready to take the next step.

For Local 26 staff, this meant gearing up their operation—and their computers. Surveys went out to members to get further information about housing needs. A computerized database with profiles of the union membership was developed to match people to housing programs for which they would be eligible. The union hired a new staff person to educate members about housing options, help them fill out forms, and get them through the red tape of the subsidized housing bureaucracy.

As this housing program evolved, so did the conviction within Local 26 that housing should be the top priority in negotiating the 1988 contract; and if the union had to invent a solution—like a housing trust fund—it would. By the time negotiations started in the fall of 1988, the membership cast an overwhelming vote to give the 165-member negotiating team authorization to strike if the hotel owners did not accept a housing fund. Even members with adequate housing situations supported a strike for the benefit. A union bellman at the Parker House Hotel who owns a home told the *Boston Globe*, "Maybe [a strike] is not worth it for me. But it's worth it for a lot of people. Whatever they want to do, I'm there."

As the contract neared expiration at the end of November, union members prepared to picket the 13 hotels under contract—including such Boston landmarks as the Ritz Carlton and the Copley Plaza—and planned to disrupt hotel operations with non-violent civil disobedience. Many union members and supporters pledged to sit-in in hotel lobbies and force police to arrest them. The National Lawyers Guild organized teams of legal observers and attorneys to represent those who would be arrested.

Other unions, community groups, and politicians were ready to join the picket lines. In an unusual display of union solidarity, the Teamsters announced that they would honor picket lines and refuse to make deliveries, putting a serious crimp in the hotels' ability to keep operating. Mayors about to arrive in Boston for a conference of the National League of Cities were also contacted by the union

to lend their support. The conference was scheduled to start soon after the Hotel Workers' contract expired, putting pressure on Boston Mayor Flynn to facilitate a settlement.

The hotel owners also did their homework. They threatened the union with injunctions and a lawsuit if it tried to strike over the housing fund. But after months of organizing, Local 26 had gotten the public's attention. Everyone was watching. How could the hotel owners refuse to talk to the union about one of the most serious problems facing cities across the country?

One hour after the contract expired, the union negotiating committee announced that it had reached agreement on a new contract—one that included a housing fund in addition to an 15% wage increase over the life of the three-year contract.

Building Alliances with Community Development Movements

In recent years, many unions have become directly involved in housing development and financing (see box). But Local 26 will be the first to combine employer, union, and public funds to develop a housing program for union members. The housing benefit fund will offer loans and grants to hotel workers to help with down payments and security deposits, for example. The union is considering using the trust fund to subsidize interest payments on mortgage loans for its members.

To implement its housing program, the union has established the Union-Neighborhood Assistance Corporation with grants of \$50,000 each from the city of Boston, the state, and the International Union. The nonprofit entity plans to build low-income housing units for hotel workers and others, in a joint venture with a neighborhood-based nonprofit developer. To finance this development, Local 26 wants to use International Union pension funds, its own pension funds, and other private and public financing.

Yet obstacles remain before the housing program becomes a reality. The most immediate involves lobbying Congress to amend federal labor law so that the housing program can go forward. It may also face a challenge from the Department of Labor, which consistently opposed innovative uses of union pension funds during the Reagan administration.

Plenty of challenges will remain when the union reaches the point of administering the housing fund. The problem of equity will come to the forefront—almost everyone in the union would like the chance to improve their housing situation, but the fund will never be large enough to accommodate everyone's needs. The union faces hard choices in establishing criteria to govern loans and grants it makes from the fund. Should priority be given to people who can least afford housing? To those with the largest families? To those who can use the money to leverage the most financing from other sources?

Despite these legal and political struggles, Local 26 is a strong union with considerable political clout. Unfortunately, most other service workers do not yet have such an institution behind them. With the exception of public employees, most service-sector workers are employed in non-union-

ized workplaces. For them, housing benefits are unlikely to become a "bargainable" issue any time soon.

But as is true with almost every intractable problem, small-scale solutions can be pursued alongside broader ones. Union housing development efforts, like the work of traditional neighborhood-based community development corporations, may benefit only a fraction of the people who need housing. But Local 26's effort raises the prospect of an alliance between the labor movement and the community development movements that will strengthen both.

Local 26's Bruce Marks believes the new contract will also increase political support from business for affordable housing. "When you make management part of the housing trust fund, they have an obligation to make it viable. They must then become part of the affordable housing coalition. When people go to lobby Congress for

more funds for housing, [employers] become part of the coalition that comes with us." □

This article is reprinted with permission from Dollars & Sense, April, 1989. Subscription information available from Dollars & Sense, One Summer St., Somerville, MA 02143. It was adapted from articles that appeared in the newsletter Housing Matters. Housing Matters reports on new housing initiatives and strategies, and provides information about legislation and resources. Subscription information available from the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, 69 Canal St, Boston, MA 02114. Annette Duke is editor of Housing Matters and an attorney at the Mass. Law Reform Institute. Jean Kluver is a former Dollars & Sense staff editor and worked with Local 26 in developing their housing program.

Housing Development with a Union Label

Financing Union-Built Housing:

Many unions are using their pension funds to finance union-built housing construction. One of the most innovative projects of this type is the Bricklayers and Laborers Nonprofit Housing Corporation in Boston. Using a financing mechanism called "development deposits," the Bricklayers union invests pension funds in bank certificates of deposit with a local bank, U.S. Trust. In return, U.S. Trust agrees to provide a construction loan for union-backed housing developments at two to three points below the market interest rate. To date, the union's Nonprofit Housing Corporation has developed 230 union-built housing units, which sell for about 40% below market prices.

Low-interest mortgages:

Unions are also using pension funds to provide low-interest mortgages for union members. The first private-sector union to succeed with this kind of program was a Florida local of the Operating Engineers. Although the Department of Labor (DOL) sued the union for using its pension assets in this way, DOL was defeated in court in 1985. To date the Ironworkers Union in New York City has been the only other private-sector union to set up a low-interest mortgage loan program for its members. The program offers mortgages at about 2 percentage points less than a regular bank loan. This is not a loan program for low-income people; a 25% downpayment is required, and the bank uses all the standard criteria for accepting or rejecting mortgage applications.

Cooperative housing:

In the 1950s and 1960s, a number of unions in New York City, including the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), invested in cooperative apartment buildings. The buildings were open to anyone who met certain eligibility requirements, although a large share of union members became resident shareholders through word of mouth. In San Francisco in the 1960s, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) built housing for retirees. The United Farmworkers have also built cooperative housing for retired farmworkers.

National Service

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a national service program may well become the means to persuade the public to accept the simpler idea of a military draft. The propaganda will work to promote either option, and the military draft may seem a viable "compromise" once the duty-to-serve premise becomes popular.

Don't Count on Help from Liberals

In January, 1988, a Gallup poll found that 83% of the general public supported the idea of voluntary national service (11% opposed). Mandatory service for men was supported by 55%, while 44% approved of mandatory service for women. This was the highest level of support for either voluntary or mandatory national service since Gallup began polling on the question in 1969.

It is another poll, however, that produced the most disturbing and foreboding results. In 1987, Common Cause found that among the presumably liberal readers of its publication, *Common Cause Magazine*, mandatory national service was favored 57% to 40%! This suggests that an enormous amount of educating urgently needs to be done even among those who profess to be progressives.

Most draft and national service opponents would probably share the

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desire of liberals to improve the socio/economic conditions that national service is supposed to address. In order to wage an effective campaign against national service, we will have to loudly reject the way its proponents are using the concept for other, objectionable political goals. We must challenge the implication that those who disagree with national service are uncaring, self-obsessed leeches. We will have to find ways to communicate our own commitment to solving socio-economic problems with other methods. We will also have to stress the link between national service and the draft, so that it doesn't get lost in the rhetoric about "voluntary" programs, which, in reality, use financial incentives to coerce, and are likely to be just a stage in the evolution of some type of mandatory program.

Our first task is to ensure that peace and justice organizations are clear on why national service must be opposed. □

Rick Jahnkow is an activist with the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft.

Organized Labor and National Service

CAROLYN STEVENS

In the book, *Citizenship and National Service*, the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) offers numerous positive rationales for their national service proposal. High on the list is the assertion that national service is the best way to staff a variety of unmet tasks (an estimated 4 million jobs) in the education, health, environmental and social service fields. If one believes the DLC, there are no other resources in society to meet these needs:

Health, education, welfare—in these and other areas the demand for social services far exceeds the supply. Neither the public nor private sector has the means or will to undertake innumerable tasks that have low profit potential but high civic value. (p.31)

The authors pragmatically add, a few pages later:

Moreover, in the current period of fiscal stringency, national service may

well be the only politically feasible way to make new public investments in our collective future. (p. 48)

Economic conversion from military to civilian sector spending plays no role in the DLC's vision. With eyes clearly focused on a large military and a coercive national service system, it doesn't seem to occur to the DLC that work in health care, education, child care and conservation can be better performed by well-paid, permanent members of the regular work force.

What should be the response of organized labor to national service proposals? Clearly it is the intent of the DLC to co-opt labor's legitimate concerns about job displacement:

[Private business] will not be permitted to employ volunteers; [the non-profit and public sectors] will be able to use enlistees as supplements to—not substitutes for—their regular work force....To allay fears of job displacement, there needs to be close and continuous consultation with public and private labor organizations as national service goes into effect. (p. 50)

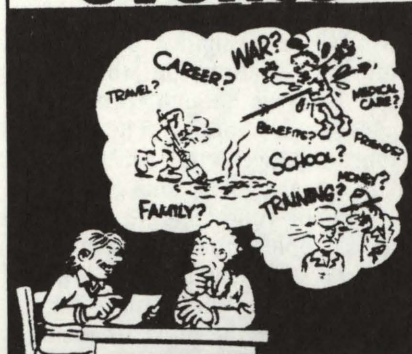
These assurances, however, are far from adequate. Organized labor has long recognized that any programs that promote below minimum wage employment pose a threat to the regular, adult labor force and to unionization efforts. On these grounds alone, many in organized labor will work to defeat subsistence-wage, civilian national service proposals.

Moreover, there are additional hidden assumptions about organized labor in the DLC national service plan that need to be exposed and refuted:

1) The DLC assumes that organized labor will support the continued high level of federal military spending. While historically allied with pro-Cold War policies, today's labor movement, particularly progressive public sector and service industry unions, are actively challenging government priorities that allocate 60 cents of every tax dollar to the military, create relatively few jobs for every federal dollar spent, and leave urgent human needs unmet.

2) The DLC is targetting traditionally non-union sectors of the economy for its national service jobs. They probably hope to enlist labor movement support by asserting that few areas of traditional union strength will be affected. What the DLC does not realize is that

Upcoming events



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NATIONAL SERVICE

organized labor knows full well that service industry and public sector jobs are our society's organizing frontiers. In fact, national service proposals are at direct loggerheads with organized labor's need and commitment to organize low-paid health care, child care and educational support workers.

In summary, the DLC's assumptions about support from organized labor include the idea that the labor movement will somehow believe empty promises about protection from job displacement, will support Cold War ideologies

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and spending priorities, and will abandon future organizing of service industry and public sector employees. All these assumptions are false and point clearly to the basis on which organized labor should strongly oppose national service proposals. Anti-draft activists with labor union connections can use these labor-specific arguments, along with the other good reasons to oppose national service, to educate and mobilize their unions to work against national service legislation. □

Carolyn Stevens, a former labor activist, is Program Coordinator for the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, Seattle Washington.

Is National Service an Alternative to the Draft?

KATHY GILBERD

Isn't national service a better alternative than the draft? This is an important question, since several of the national service proposals have apparently appealing features; some include economic or educational benefits, some provide job training, and some are voluntary. But if the proposals are examined in more detail, and if we take a look at their history, it appears that they are not really an alternative to the draft.

Discussion of national service grew out of a larger discussion of military personnel requirements and of the draft. The history of the draft registration program showed that it was flawed—after all, registration had been intended in large part to win people over to the idea of a draft, to encourage a passive acceptance of the government's right to conscript people. But the registration program has been largely unsuccessful in that regard. The administration and Congress are well aware that registration did not generate cooperation or complacency about a draft. Resistance has been significant, and it took the Solomon Amendment—economic coercion—to boost registration rates.

Given this situation, it was logical that proponents of the draft would look to other ways to gain acceptance (or at least tolerance) for the draft. National service plans were proposed in

the course of this, and some were put forward with a specific explanation that they could pave the way for resumption of the draft. This is the context in which the current national service programs were developed, and in which we must examine those plans.

Even the proposals which are voluntary, and which involve economic benefits for participants, are based on the idea that the government has the right to "channel" jobs and service to the country. All of the plans include an ideological feature fundamental to the draft: the idea that people have an obligation to serve their country (rather than, for example, other people), and that this service should be provided through government organized programs designed to meet needs determined by the government.

Some activists feel they should not criticize national service proposals because of the economic benefits they offer. Some of the programs would make college education or job training available to people who might otherwise not receive them. By making economic assistance and education into benefits, rather than rights, by making

national service almost a necessity for the poor, they simply replicate the economic coercion, or "poverty draft," of the military's current recruitment program. □

Kathy Gilberd is national Co-Chair of the National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force.

For more information about national service plans contact COMD, P.O. Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92115, or call (619) 753-7518.

For a packet of information including a statement of opposition to all forms of national service, write the National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors, 1601 Connecticut Ave., NW #750, Washington, DC 20009. NISBCO points out in their literature that "real service, which might entail social change, advocacy for those who are really disadvantaged in our society, will not be supported." They also write that in some of the plans for national service, civilian enlistees would be mobilized for military duty in the event of a military emergency.

Grants

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CCCCO's counter-recruitment slideshow (co-produced with the War Resister's League and partially funded by Resist) is the most popular counter-recruitment tool in the country.

CCCCO also works with people in the military, a world where basic human rights and specific civil rights are denied, and where the degradation of the individual is a basic part of military training. **CCCCO would like to make accurate information about military life, military regulations and conscientious objection available to all military personnel and all young people of high school age.** The organization believes that poverty and deceptive advertising are as coercive a threat to the "voice of conscience," as the draft.

CCCCO says funding for this kind of work has sharply declined since the 1960s and 70s, and that raising money to keep their programs alive is one of the biggest challenges they face today. Resist's recent grant will help the Western Region replace an obsolete computer with a more versatile one to make fundraising easier.

National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors (NISBO), 1601 Connecticut Ave., NW #750, Washington, DC 20009.

NISBCO, formed in 1940, is a coalition of religious groups that work together to defend and extend the rights of conscientious objectors. **NISBCO provides counseling, draft counseling instruction, advocacy, education and literature, especially concerning conscientious objection within various faith traditions.** Recently NISBCO has been very active in campaigning against all forms of "national service," or "voluntary" military service in exchange for various housing and education benefits. (See articles, this issue).

Resist provided NISBCO with an emergency grant to alert groups around the country to the "pep rallies" that the Democratic Leadership Council is holding to gain acceptance for their proposal for national service. NISBCO has produced several leaflets, articles and background papers on this issue. A packet of information is available at the address above for \$3.00.

GRANTS

This month our grants section highlights some of the groups that Resist has funded in 1988 and 1989, working on labor, housing, and anti-militarism issues.

Homefront '88, c/o Poor People's United Fund, 645 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116.

"What do we want? Housing! Housing! Housing! What do we want? A home! A home!" Members of Homefront '88, including homeless people, veterans and advocates, demanded action on housing during a Memorial Day protest last summer in downtown Boston. For seven weeks the group camped in front of Boston City Hall and the Massachusetts State House to call attention to federal, state and local government failure to develop affordable housing. Periodic clashes with the police were sometimes averted through the intervention of a few supportive legislators. On Memorial Day, homeless people commemorated those

who have died on the streets in the war of survival. Ninety-five small white crosses were planted on Boston Common, bearing the names of people who died of hypothermia, or of disease, or of beatings, or who just couldn't make it.

Homefront '88 developed as a grassroots movement of homeless people and their advocates insisting that improving the shelter system is not a solution to homelessness. Their efforts include working to claim and rehabilitate abandoned buildings to provide immediate housing for people on the streets. Resist gave Homefront '88 an emergency grant for a PA system for one of their rallies in Boston.

Migrant Farmworker Rights Project, 530 12th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The Migrant Farmworker Rights Project (MFRP) was founded in 1982 by primarily Latino farmworkers in the greater Sacramento Valley Region. **The continual abuses of farmworker rights in the areas of health, sanitation, housing, labor and immigration demanded an organization that could provide legal education to migrant workers, and promote the development of farmworker committees throughout the area.** During the growing season MFRP organizes legal presentations in areas where farmworkers live and work, often the only opportunities workers have to relate serious abuses that have occurred. As a result, MFRP has participated in filing a number of court cases.

For example, MFRP filed an injunction against the Immigration and Naturalization Service Border Patrol to stop field raids that resulted in many farmworkers drowning in rivers and irrigation canals while fleeing agents. While using the legal system to fight for social and economic change for farmworkers and other Latino and poor people, MFRP also sees the need to demonstrate, boycott, and mobilize public opinion on a range of issues. Their coalition efforts include work on immigration reform, housing, bilingual services, occupational safety, pesticide use, support for the WIC program, and affirmative action.

MFRP produces a Spanish language radio program on legal rights, immigration law and related topics. They have also assisted some 400 families in completing their legalization applications, and they are planning an AIDS prevention/education project for rural areas. Resist's recent grant went towards production of MFRP's quarterly newsletter, "Mil Derechos."

Justice Demands Housing, 11 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

Justice Demands Housing (JDH) is a new statewide network of housing activists in Massachusetts that grew out of several separate campaigns of the past year, including the mobilization of 200 Massachusetts residents for the Housing Now demonstration in Washington. **Noting that federal spending on housing has decreased by over 75% in the past seven years, JDH is working to pressure the federal government to get back into the housing business.**

JDH plans to create and distribute literature; sponsor speak-outs, protests and civil disobedience actions; and organize statewide conferences to set a common strategy. The coalition is planning a large rally for late 1989 in Boston, and a statewide conference in early 1990. Resist's grant went to purchase a service contract for the group's donated, and aging, computer.

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors—Western Region (CCCCO), P.O. Box 42249, San Francisco, CA 94142.

CCCCO was founded in 1948 to help protect the civil rights of conscientious objectors during the "peacetime draft" created in that year. During the following decades CCCC assisted tens of thousands of conscientious objectors and war resisters. Much of the literature on conscientious objection and on how to make a case before a draft board was produced by CCCC. Since the end of the draft in the 1970s, CCCC has continued to counsel COs in the military, and COs concerned about draft registration. The group has also broadened its efforts at reaching young people targeted by military recruiters.

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Join the Resist Pledge Program

We'd like you to consider becoming a Resist Pledge. Pledges account for over 30% of our income. By becoming a pledge, you help guarantee Resist a fixed and dependable source of income on which we can build our grant making program. In return, we will send you a monthly pledge letter and reminder, along with your newsletter. We will keep you up-to-date on the groups we have funded, and the other work being done at Resist. So take the plunge and become a Resist pledge! We count on you, and the groups we fund count on us.

_____ Yes, I would like to become a Resist pledge. I'd like to pledge \$ _____/_____
monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, 2x a year, yearly).

_____ Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

_____ I'm not enclosing my contribution, but please bill me starting with the next newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

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